

TO THE CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS
OF THE
Langport
Rural District Council.



GENTLEMEN.—

In perusing the contents of my Annual Report for the year 1937, it will have been observed that statistics are showing a steady decline in the population of the district. This is particularly noticeable since 1933. The total was then 12,500, for 1937 it stands at 12,090.

I think that there are two probable reasons for this decline.

The first industrial, because this district is mainly agricultural, and does not possess the staple and growing industries of the towns beyond its borders.

The natural tendency is therefore to favour migration, especially of the young to richer industrial centres.

The second reason seems to be connected with a falling birth rate. From 14.5 per thousand in 1933 it has declined to 12 in 1937.

To what extent birth control is operating I cannot say.

As regards the general health of the community, I am pleased to report that we have not had to deal with any epidemic of disease, except in its milder forms. Tuberculosis shows a slight rise in incidence, but a fall in the number of deaths.

There have been no cases of maternal mortality to report.

Health Services are becoming more and more efficient, and recent legislation has provided for skilled nursing, and care of all maternity cases, as well as for expectant mothers.

Young children also are having a health supervision which is invaluable to their welfare, and to their future prospects in life.

Great care is being exercised in regard to our Public Water Supplies, and the frequent reports of the analyst are very satisfactory. In view of recent happenings elsewhere, I have arranged to inspect all new workers on Public Supply Systems, and satisfy myself that they cannot prove a source of danger to others in carrying out their vocations.

I remain, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GODFREY CARTER.

REDUCED RATEABLE VALUE OF THE DISTRICT.
 1st April, 1937 £43,611.
 SUM PRODUCED BY PENNY RATE. £189.

TABLE I.
SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

NOTE.—The Census return in 1931 gave the population as 12,480 after corrections by the Registrar General. He desires the estimation to be based as far as possible on the "Resident" population which he states differs somewhat from the enumeration of the Census.

Estimated Population	1937 12,090	1936 12,210	1935 12,350	1934 12,470	1933 12,560
Number of Reg- istered Births	145	167	162	175	182
Birth Rate per 1,000	12	13.67	13.12	14.03	14.5
Deaths. All Causes, after correction by Registrar General	188	181	191	159	171
Standard Death Rate	15.5	14.82	15.46	12.7	13.6
Infantile Mor- tality, <i>i.e.</i> , number of deaths under twelve months of age per 1,000 Births	55.2	41.9	18.5	23	49
England and Wales	58	59			
Total Number of Deaths un- der One year of age	8	7	3	4	9

POPULATION.

The Estimated Resident Population for 1937 was 12,090.
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES.

The Number of inhabited houses in the area was 3,779.

BIRTHS.

The total Number of Registered Births was 145 which is equivalent to a Birth Rate of 12 per 1,000 as compared with 13.67 in 1936.

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.

4 Males and 3 Females were registered in 1937 making a total of 7.

DEATHS.

The total Number of Deaths from all causes during the year (after correction by the Registrar-General for outward and inward transfers) was 188 (namely, 82 males and 106 Females).

TABLE II.
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING YEAR 1937.

Causes of Death.	Male.	Female.
All Causes	82	106
Influenza	4	6
Respiratory tuberculosis	2	2
Other tuberculosis	—	1
Cancer	7	15
Diabetes	2	1
Cerebral haemorrhage.....	1	7
Heart disease	23	32
Other circulatory.....	2	3
Bronchitis.....	3	4
Pneumonia	3	2
Other respiratory	—	2
General Paralysis	1	—
Appendicitis	2	—
Digestive disease	3	1
Nephritis	8	10
Congenital causes, etc.	2	2
Senility	5	8
Violence	5	2
Other defined diseases	4	9
Suicide	1	1
Aneurysm	1	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	3	—

MATERNAL MORTALITY

No case was recorded during the year.

Arrangements have been made with the Registrars of Deaths to notify immediately any Maternal Deaths, and arrangements have been made for investigation.

TABLE III.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis).**INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.**

The following were reported during the Year :—

Scarlet Fever	8
Diphtheria	4
Pneumonia (Lobar)	15
Chicken Pox	59
Puerperal Fever	1
Erysipelas.....	2

TUBERCULOSIS.

All cases Notified are forwarded weekly to the County M.O.H., who deals with all cases of Tuberculosis.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary for Examination and treatment of Tuberculosis is open every Thursday.

During the Year 8 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 6 cases of Tuberculosis (other forms) were reported to me, making a total of 14 cases.

The number of Deaths was 5.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1937.

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of all deaths from the disease in the area during 1937.

Age periods		New Cases.				Deaths.			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	.....								
1—	.....								
5—	.....								
10—	.....								
15—	.....								
20—	.....	2			2				
25—	.....		3	4	1		2		1
35—	.....			1		2			
45—	.....	1							
55—	.....								
65 & upwards	.....								
Totals	.....	3	3	5	3	2	2		1

HOUSING.

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR :—

(1) With State Assistance.	
(a) By the Local Authority	4
(b) By other Bodies or Persons	0
(2) Otherwise	14

HOUSING INSPECTIONS.

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	156
(2) Number of dwelling houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	70
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	25
(4) Number of dwelling houses found defective but not unfit	118

HOUSING ACTION.

Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

Number of Defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of <i>informal</i> action by the Local Authority or their Officers	79
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—

A.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 & 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	2
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(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	2
(b) By local authority in default of owners	0

B.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	10
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	8
(b) By local authority in default of owners	0

C.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11, 13 & 26 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	10
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders, Statutory Undertakings accepted by the Council in respect of	6

D.—HOUSING ACT, 1936.—OVERCROWDING.

The work entailed in the measuring up of the Houses in connection with the Overcrowding Survey was carried out by the Staff of the Health Department.

The Council appointed a temporary Clerk to deal with the whole of the tabulating and the issuing of Certificates.

All the Houses up to £12 R.V. have been measured and recorded.

The total number of visits made was 1725.

SUMMARY.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	39
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	39
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	262
(b) Number of new cases of Overcrowding reported during the year	10
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	20
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	130

CHAPTER III.

**WATER SUPPLIES
OF DISTRICT.**

The following Districts have a piped Water Supply, namely :—

- 1.—LANGPORT & KINGSBURY EPISCOPI.—From Compton Durville ; this supplies the whole parishes of Kingsbury Episcopi, Langport, Aller, Huish Episcopi and Muchelney.
- 2.—SOMERTON & DISTRICT.—From Lytes Cary, supplying the parishes of Somerton and Kingsdon. Also two parishes in the Yeovil Rural District.
- 3.—BARRINGTON & DISTRICT.—From a Spring supplying the parishes of Barrington, Curry Rivel, Isle Brewers, Drayton and Middelney Manor.
- 4.—LONG SUTTON.—From a deep well supplying most of the Houses at Long Sutton, Knole and Bineham.
Examination of the whole of the Council's Water Supplies is being done every three months. The results in each case shew these Supplies to be quite satisfactory and free from contamination.
- 5.—WESTERN PARISHES.—This Scheme is now completed and water is available in all the Parishes. The majority of the properties are now connected, those outstanding are being dealt with as rapidly as possible.
- 6.—EASTERN PARISHES.—It is most unsatisfactory to report that very little progress towards the provision of a Public Supply for these Parishes has been found practicable. The failure of the proposed Scheme in conjunction with the Wells Rural District Council to materialise has been a matter of grave concern to the Council and it is proposed to further examine the possible sources of Supply in our own area without delay.
- 7.—PICTS HILL.—The only augmentation carried out during the year was an extension of the Main to supply 24 Houses at Picts Hill in the Parishes of Huish Episcopi and High Ham.

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACTS, 1926—31.

During the year 17 Applications in respect of 23 Cottages were submitted to the County Council.

In each case a Grant was recommended to the Applicant and ultimately given and with only two exceptions the work was proceeded with.

The number of Cottages completed during the year 1937 was 19.

DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE.

The only portions of the District where sewerage systems exist are :—

1.—SOMERTON, where about 4/5ths of the dwelling houses are drained and conveyed to the Sewage Field where downward intermittent filtration is carried out. The irrigation works at the above Farm have been considerably improved by the addition of nearly 2 acres of land.

A scheme for sewerage a portion of the West End of Somerton, at present unsewered, is in course of preparation and will be the subject of an Inquiry by the Ministry of Health in due course.

The result of Effluent Samples collected at the Outfall before passing into the River Cary has been satisfactory.

2.—KINGSBURY EPISCOPI & EAST LAMBROOK.—The Scheme of the above, approved by the Ministry of Health and the County Council, is now in operation and the majority of the Houses are connected.

3.—CURRY RIVEL.—The Ministry of Health, following two Inquiries, have sanctioned a Scheme for a portion of this village. When the work is completed the nuisance now existing in the centre of the village will be remedied.

COLLECTION & DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

The Scheme for a regular collection throughout the whole of the Langport District came into operation on the 1st of November, 1937, and is working satisfactorily.

The method of collection is with a 10 cubic yard S. & D. Freighter.

Disposal is by means of controlled Tipping in a disused Quarry. The average number of loads collected weekly is 9.

MILK SUPPLY.

Number of Producers on the Register	433
Number of Distributors on the Register divided as follows :—	
Distributors also producers	123
Distributors only	0
Number of Samples taken and submitted to the County Analyst during the year :—	
For Tubercle Bacilli	24
For Bacillus Coli	12
For Accredited	54
For Pasteurised	4
For Tuberculin Tested	8

(A Producer is only included as a distributor if he definitely makes a business of selling his milk by retail to individual customers.)

Number of Licences given to Graded Milk Distributors	2
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SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

During the year the routine work of Examinations of the Slaughter Houses, and the Animals killed therein has been regularly carried out.

Slaughter Houses in the District total 15.

Licensed Slaughter-houses	12
Registered	2
Knacker's Yard	1
During the year, recorded visits to Slaughter-houses	1,040

MEAT CONDEMNED DURING THE YEAR.

PIGS.

Whole Carcases Condemned	8
Head only ,, ...	33
Internal Organs ,, ...	23

OXEN.

Whole Carcases ,, ...	2
Whole of Organs ,, ...	1
Heads ,, ...	17
Livers ,, ...	47
Lungs ,, ...	5
Forequarter ,, ...	8
Trimnings,, ...	64 lbs.

SHEEP.

Whole Carcases ,, ...	3
Livers ,, ...	45

ISOLATION HOSPITAL

During the year 1937, 5 cases of Scarlet Fever and 1 case of Diphtheria, were treated in the Hospital. All made good recoveries.

On the completion of the County Council's new Isolation Hospital, now in course of erection at South Petherton, this Council's Isolation Hospital at Ham Down, which has done excellent service for a number of years, will be closed and have to be disposed of.

There is a horse-drawn ambulance for removal of Infectious cases to Hospital, and a steam Disinfector exists in the Hospital grounds for disinfecting articles. This is carried out under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

DISTRICT NURSES.

District Nurses who also act as Midwives are available in five districts. These Nurses are not under the Control of the Council, but are supported by Voluntary Contributions.

CHAPTER IV.

FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS.

The number of Factories total 34 in the district and consist mainly of :—

Wheelwrights, Smiths, Printers, Tailoring, Bakeries, Harness and Coachwork, as well as Milk Factories.

THE NUMBER OF WORKSHOPS Total 46.

Whilst a considerable amount of Homework (especially Gloving) goes on throughout the district.

During the year No Notices were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories, for defects.

I have the honour to be,
Your Obedient Servant,

GODFREY CARTER.

Number of Dwellings inspected during the Year	638
Number of Re-Inspections during the Year	225
New Earth Closets erected during the Year	14
New Water Closets	60
New Septic Tanks	43
Houses Connected to the Public Water Supplies	310
New Sanitary Sinks fitted	63
Houses Disinfected	17
Visits to Slaughter Houses	1,040
Visits to Bakehouses	48
Water Samples taken for Analysis	33
Milk Samples for Bacteria Count (i.e., for Cleanliness)	12
Pasteurised	4
Milk Samples taken for Examination for Tubercle Bacilli	24
Milk Samples taken for Examination for "Accredited"	54
Milk Samples taken for Tuberculin Tested	8
Visits to Water Works	163
Visits to Cowsheds	229
Sewage Samples Collected	4
Drain Tests made during the Year	107
New Connections to Sewers	85
Visits to Sewage Farm	48
Nuisances abated	41
New Food Storage provided	39

Sanitary Inspector.

